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The Great Gatsby

“People are so busy dreaming the American Dream, fantasizing about what they could be or have a right to be, that they fall asleep at the switch. Consequently we are living in the Age of Human Error.” (Florence King.) The American Dream means wealth, family, the promise of success and possibility. In *The Great Gatsby*, Gatsby’s American dream is a future with Daisy. The green light at the end of the Daisy’s dock is Gatsby’s symbol of his dream and hope for the future. In the end Gatsby dies because he was so obsessed on finding and succeeding in his American Dream that it ends up killing him, much like today everyone obsessing over wealth and family. The American Dream is detrimental to our society as shown in *The Great Gatsby*.

When believing in the American Dream many get confused on living in reality and a fantasy. In Gatsby’s Dream he wants to stay in the past with Daisy, but Gatsby has to realize that those days are over and he gets mixed up between reality and his past life. Gatsby has memories “One autumn night, five years before” (Fitzgerald 117) about Daisy and how their love used to be. When Gatsby gets so obsessed with his fantasy he thinks everything is okay. “I Don’t think she ever loved him” said Gatsby (Fitzgerald 159). Gatsby believes everything with him and Daisy is alright and everything is going to work out. When reality sets in Daisy picks Tom and leaves Gatsby which kills him.

Myrtle Wilson’s Dream is to marry a rich man and have money; she tries to be something she’s not. Dresses like she has money when truthfully she doesn’t. She wears off white dresses more of a cream color. Myrtle wants a dog and ends up getting a mutt. “I want to get one of those dogs,” she said earnestly. “I want to get one for the apartment. They’re nice to have—a dog.” (Fitzgerald 31). With her obsession of Tom, with wanting to be with him for his old money, she gets killed in the process. She runs out to “Tom’s Car” and gets ran over.

Out of all the dreams many tie back to family and wealth. George Wilson, all he wanted was a family and to have the happiness of a husband with Myrtle. George believed in god “God sees everything” repeated Wilson (Fitzgerald 167) when he realized Gatsby “killed” Myrtle. With this George’s Dream was to move away with Myrtle and start a family and right before they are about to leave Myrtle dies, his dream dies.